

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of Joint Application of Verizon Communications Inc. ("Verizon") and MCI, Inc. ("MCI") to Transfer Control of MCI's California Utility Subsidiaries to Verizon, Which Will Occur Indirectly as a Result of Verizon's Acquisition of MCI.

Application 05-04-020
(Filed April 21, 2005)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING ON MOTIONS
TO FILE PROPRIETARY REPLY BRIEFS UNDER SEAL**

A number of parties have moved to file under seal the proprietary versions of their reply briefs. Each party states that public disclosure of material redacted from its proprietary brief is unnecessary, as parties that require access to the redacted data have the ability to do so by entering into non-disclosure agreements. Redacted versions of the parties' briefs have been filed with the Commission and are available to the public.

There has been no opposition to these requests.

The parties' motions state grounds for a protective order under Pub. Util. Code § 583 and General Order 66-C and authority there cited. A public hearing on the motions is unnecessary.

This ruling grants the motions for leave to file unredacted copies of reply briefs under seal. The ruling applies only to those motions received in hard copy by the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). Other parties with similar motions are invited to serve hard copies of those motions to the ALJ for inclusion in a subsequent ruling.

IT IS RULED that:

1. The motions of The Utility Reform Network; Verizon Communications Inc. and MCI, Inc.; Qwest Communications Corporation, and the Office of Ratepayer Advocates for leave to file under seal the proprietary versions of their reply briefs are granted to the extent set forth below.

2. All confidential information contained in portions of the proprietary versions of reply briefs of the parties identified in Paragraph 1 shall remain under seal for a period of two years from the date of this ruling, and during that period shall not be made accessible or disclosed to anyone other than Commission staff except (1) on the further order or ruling of the Commission, the Assigned Commissioner, the assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), or the ALJ then designated as Law and Motion Judge (which order shall only be entered after notice to Joint Applicants and an opportunity to be heard), or (2) upon execution of an appropriate nondisclosure agreement by the party to whom disclosure is made.

3. If any party identified in Paragraph 1 believes that further protection of this information is needed after two years, that party may file a motion stating the justification for further withholding the information from public inspection, or for such other relief as the Commission rules may then provide. This motion shall be filed no later than 30 days before the expiration of this protective order.

Dated October 17, 2005, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ GLEN WALKER

Glen Walker
Administrative Law Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have by mail this day served a true copy of the original attached Administrative Law Judge's Ruling On Motions to File Proprietary Reply Briefs Under Seal on all parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record.

Dated October 17, 2005, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ JANET V. ALVIAR

Janet V. Alviar

N O T I C E

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to insure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.

The Commission's policy is to schedule hearings (meetings, workshops, etc.) in locations that are accessible to people with disabilities. To verify that a particular location is accessible, call: Calendar Clerk (415) 703-1203.

If specialized accommodations for the disabled are needed, *e.g.*, sign language interpreters, those making the arrangements must call the Public Advisor at (415) 703-2074, TTY 1-866-836-7825 or (415) 703-5282 at least three working days in advance of the event.